

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 2, line 3 and ending at line 15.

As one of the attempts for dealing with such cost increases, the chassis was made by simply bending a monolithic piece of plate, which has been formed, by blanking, in the predetermined pattern. The simple bending of the plate resulted in a substantial number of L-shaped corners, which were not rigid enough to withstand the load from functional components. In other words, a conventional monolithic chassis was not strong enough to satisfactorily support the functional components. In addition, it failed to provide an image forming apparatus with torsional rigidity, making it difficult to improve the performance of an image forming apparatus.